

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/782,820
Amendment filed December 21, 2004
Reply to OA dated September 23, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently being considered, of which claim 5 has been amended. No new claims have been added. Applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced.

Claim 5 stands rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112. In particular, the Examiner has suggested that there is insufficient basis for "the resistance elements" in claim 5. Claim 5 has been amended to remove "the" from line 3. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Before turning to the cited art, a brief review of the present invention is in order. The present invention relates to an apparatus for polishing a row bar including a plurality of magnetic head sliders, the apparatus including a jig secured to said housing and comprising a rigid member having a plurality of holes and an elastic member fixed to said rigid member for holding a row bar. The present invention also relates to a method of polishing a row bar including a plurality of magnetic head sliders, the method including securing a jig to a movable housing, said jig including a rigid member having a plurality of holes and an elastic member fixed to said rigid member. The present invention has a jig which includes an elastic member 30 and a rigid member 28. The rigid member 28 has a plurality of holes 32. The elastic member 30 holds a row bar 14.

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Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by USP 6,375,539 (**Sudo '539**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

One of the most critical differences between the present invention and **Sudo '539** is that the present invention includes the elastic member (30). No such member is described, taught, or suggested by **Sudo '539**.

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 5, the Examiner has suggested that "Referring to claims 1-11, **Sudo et al.** discloses ... a jig member (26) secured to the housing and comprising a rigid member fixed to the rigid member for holding the row bar (126)."

Thus, the Examiner has suggested that the foot 26 of **Sudo '539** corresponds to the "jig" as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's suggestion.

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Sudo '539 does not show that foot 26 corresponds to the “jig” of claim 1 of the present invention. **Sudo '539** does not show that foot 26 is an element “secured to said housing and comprising a rigid member having a plurality of holes and an elastic member fixed to said rigid member for holding a row bar” as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention.

Furthermore, **Sudo '539** does not show that the detailed internal structure of the foot 26 includes the following features of the “jig” of the present invention: an elastic member 30 and a rigid member 28 with holes 32, as shown in FIGS. 5-9 of the present invention.

On page 3 of the Office Action, in line 4, the Examiner has suggested that element 32 of **Sudo '539** corresponds to the “rigid member” as set forth in claim 1.

Thus, the Examiner has suggested that pneumatic cylinder 32 of **Sudo '539** corresponds to the rigid member as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s suggestion.

The present invention has a jig which includes an elastic member 30 and a rigid member 28. The rigid member 28 has a plurality of holes 32. The elastic member 30 holds a row bar 14. Viewing the present invention as a whole, and viewing **Sudo '539** as a whole, pneumatic cylinder

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32 of Sudo '539 does not describe rigid member 28 of the present invention.

Sudo '539 fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 1: “a jig secured to said housing and comprising a rigid member having a plurality of holes and an elastic member fixed to said rigid member for holding a row bar”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Sudo '539 fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features of claim 12: “securing a jig to a movable housing, said jig including a rigid member having a plurality of holes and an elastic member fixed to said rigid member”, in combination with the other claimed features.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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